The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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The more corrupt the state, the more laws.—Tacitus.

WHOLE NO. 937. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 2.

LAW COURTS AND EQUITY COURTS ARE TWO EXTREMES

To understand the labor injunction citizens must know the difference between a law court and an equity court.

A law court deals with statutory and common law. Statutory law is passed by a legislature. Common law is a custom or usage that has all the force of statutory law through long acceptance by the people.

Common law, for instance, is the rule that when persons pass on a highway, they should keep to the right of the road.

In a law court the accused is assumed to be innocent until he is proven guilty. The charges against him are specified and his rights are guaranteed under the constitution, under the law and a long series of precedents that the law court judge must rigidly adhere to or he will be reversed by a higher court.

In an equity court the accused is assumed to be guilty. He must prove his innocence to the satisfaction of the equity judge who is unfettered by constitution, law or precedent.

The equity judge is governed by his conscience. His views are largely determined by education and the self-interest of the strata in society from which he usually comes.

There is as much difference between a law court and an equity court as there is between Mussolini and our governmental theory that the people are sovereign.

When the equity judge passes on personal relationships he sets aside government by law. It is as impossible for these two systems to continue in this country as it is for autocracy and democracy to exist.

Organized labor insists that the equity system be restored to its original purpose—where property is involved and where the plaintiff has no remedy at law. When human relationships are treated as property the equity judge is enthroned. It makes no difference whether his decree is called an injunction, edict, order or rule, the effect is the same—government by conscience is substituted for government by law.

Defenders of the labor injunction demand that the jurisdiction of equity be untouched. They claim this jurisdiction—this power to exercise authority—is inherent in the court.

Trade unionists insist that the lawmaking branch shall define the jurisdiction of equity courts, just as is done in law courts.

This is the principle around which the injunction contest is waged.

The people were forced to abolish kings when they discovered no monarch was discreet in the use of his power. The United States is going through the same experience with equity judges.

No man can be trusted with unchecked power. Jurisdiction of the equity court should be defined. Injunction judges should be prohibited from interfering with cases that can and should be handled by courts of law.

WORKERS ENTITLED TO SHARE IN MACHINE'S LARGER OUTPUT

New York, March 23.—In an address to the Bond Club of this city, Wm. Green, president A. F. of L., declared that workers should equitably share in the benefits that come from machinery.

"Obviously, the efficiency of workers is increased by machinery," said Mr. Green. "Common justice demands that wages increase in accordance with increased production. In a corresponding way the hours of labor can be reduced so that working people may enjoy higher wages, a short work day and a shorter work week.

"We believe there will be further expansion of the use of machinery and power and that it is quite impossible to appraise the extent to which machinery will be used in mass production and in industry generally," said Mr. Green. "Further installation of mechanical equipment is inevitable. We would not stop it if we could.

"While this mechanizing process is continuing the human element in industry must be protected. Machine produces commodities but it does not consume them. A market must be maintained for machine-produced goods if the forces of production and consumption is to be kept in balance. This can be done by developing the purchasing power of the consuming masses to maximum capacity.

"Every person is a potential consumer, but only those who possess a purchasing power are active consumers. The jobless cannot buy.

"We wish to arouse interest in a plan or plans which will serve to cushion wage earners moving from machine displaced positions to other jobs for which they are best suited by training, skill and ability.

"Every person willing and able should be accorded an opportunity to secure employment. There should be no army of unemployed or human scrap heap in America. A jobless class is a menace to society."

Chicago Building Craftsmen Win; Defeat High-Financed Thuggery

Chicago, March 23.—The Building Trades Council has signed a five-year union shop agreement with the Building Construction Employers' Association.

The agreement marks the end of the Citizens' Committee to Enforce the Landis Award. This organization is responsible for a wave of thuggery and turmoil in the building industry that employers feared would jeopardize the World's Fair. The proposed celebration has already flooded this city with building craftsmen.

Judge Landis, present baseball czar, was on the federal bench when he made his award. Wages were reduced approximately $50 a month. The workers rejected the award and anti-union business men organized to enforce the edict.

Strikebreakers were imported and a reign of terror inaugurated. The committee operated through a bureau that reached into banks to cut supply houses. When a contractor refused to lower wages his credit was curtailed and he could not secure material.

Large department houses that backed the committee were among the first anti-unionists to weaken. These store managers discovered that the strikebreakers were spending little money. This, together with the workers' solidarity, undermined the committee. The State Supreme Court ruled last December that the committee was an unlawful conspiracy. The final blow is the contractors' agreement and all hope of putting the building industry of this city on an anti-union basis has disappeared. The fight cost millions of dollars, while the number of deaths caused by the employers' thugs will never be known.

"NATIVE" WORKERS STRIKE FOR WAGES

Elizabethton, Tenn., March 23.—Several hundred unorganized male and female workers employed by the American Glanztoff Corporation, manufacturers of rayon silk, suspended work to enforce a living wage. The movement spread and now involves the entire textile industry in this city. The workers are being aided by the United Textile Workers. Representative Hoffman of that organization is here and workers are being enrolled by the hundreds.

Speakers at mass meetings were bitter in denunciation of low wages. Rates for the highest skilled workers range from 25 to 30 cents an hour, while others received from 16 to 20 cents. Company houses are rented from $26 to $38 a month, with coal, light and water extra.

The corporation secured an injunction restraining strikers from trespassing on company property. The sheriff was cheered when he read the order at a mass meeting.

Practically all these workers are natives of East Tennessee and North Carolina. They trace their ancestry back to English settlers, and this fact has been stressed by low-wage advocates who assume this blood is immune from appeals of "foreign-born labor agitators in the North."

Events proved, however, that Glanztoff employes will strike against debasing conditions, just as quickly as workers whose European connections are less remote.

ECONOMISTS WILL AGAIN RETREAT

A law to permit resale prices will be strongly urged at the next regular session of Congress.

Under such a law the producer of a trade-marked commodity can set the price that middle men and retailers must charge. There can be no competition in these goods, as the price would be stabilized, regardless of the amount handled or the retailer's fixed cost of conducting his business.

When workers would stabilize prices for their service we hear much of the "immutable law of supply and demand," that is as fixed as is the solar system.

Permission to set resale prices will drive economists from the last ditch they dug to defend this theory.

WHAT IS BEHIND COSSACK PLAN?

Proposals in various legislatures to establish the Cossacks, or a State Constabulary, have the usua "law enforcement" window dressing.

No man who has reasoning faculties will accept the claim of corporate interests that they spend their money to "protect the farmer."

These interests want a State police controlled by the governor. The next step is greater inroads on popular control of the police force that is now in the hands of the people.

The Cossack proposal is but another phase of the quiet effort to centralize—to Mussolinize—our political system. Other phases are the commission form of government, the labor injunction which sets up one-man rule, and the budget system, which takes control of the purse from the people.

Citizens should bear in mind that privilege and reaction never place their cards on the table. Flank attack is their mode of fighting. When they plead for "efficiency" and "law and order" the joker should be sought.

JOKER IN STATE POLICE BILL WOULD PROTECT ARMED THUGS

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 23.—Defects in Governor Fisher's proposal to substitute a system of industrial police for the Coal and Iron Police are pointed out by the executive committee of the Constitutional Rights Committee of this city.

The committee includes well-known lawyers and prominent citizens who call attention to loopholes in the proposed legislation. The governor's bill, it is stated, fails to provide adequate bond for new policemen; fails to provide efficient supervision by a public official and fails to limit the district of operation of the new officers. The committee declares that the industrial police should have no police powers in towns and villages which, although they may be on company-owned property, are no real part of the industrial plant.

If the Fisher bill is passed as presented coal owners will be in as complete control of the industrial police as in the case of the coal and iron police, whose thuggery has finally aroused the citizens of this State.

An amusing feature of the attempt to curb these gunmen is the pious "law-and-order" pretense of anti-union coal owners.

OLD-AGE PENSION PLAN IS WIDELY DISCUSSED

Albany, N. Y., March 23.—Governor Roosevelt is receiving more letters on his old-age pension plan than any other half-dozen matters of State policy put together. The letters come from tenement houses, from small town shopkeepers who are pushed to the wall, from run-down farms, from inmates of poor houses, from welfare workers and philanthropists who have seen the inability of organized charity to cope with the situation.

Hearings on old age pensions brought out that the lengthening average span of life and the lowering of the employment age is producing an increasing insecurity. Many industrial concerns refuse to employ men over 45 and some have pushed the limit to 40. Thus, for the manual worker, the average period of financial dependence is increased at both ends.

The Joint Legislative Committee estimated that 85 per cent of poorhouse inmates need supervising, nursing or medical care, and would therefore not benefit by a pension enabling them to live outside. Other estimates have been somewhat lower.

Pension advocates insist that the poor who are neither physically or mentally disabled should not be placed in poorhouses with diseased and feebleminded and that if they are pensioned those needing supervision can be more economically provided for in special institutions.

Every populous country except the United States and China, it is stated, has some form of assistance for aged citizens.

COMMUNISTS' STRIKE FADES FROM PICTURE

New York, March 23.—The "red" strike in the cloakmaking industry has collapsed.

The Communists formed an I. W. W. outfit with the usual stage setting. Two small cloak manufacturers who are related to a leading Communist organization signed a "paper" combination of employers and the public were assured that hundreds of contracts were signed.

Money was contributed and Moscow was informed that this city is "seething with revolution."

When the bubble bursted, the "reds" quietly withdrew. The ancient trick will be duplicated, as the "reds" operate among workers who are swayed by emotion and who refuse to be guided by experience.

TELEGRAPHERS OUT; MACHINE CUTS RATE

New York, March 23.—Logan & Bryan, stock brokers, installed telegraph printing machines that are alleged to be 50 per cent faster than the Morse telegraph system.

Wages of from $70 to $85 a week, paid to members of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, are cut to $47.50 and $52.50 a week, and the telegraphers suspended work.

The wire men deny that less skill is necessary. They insist that faithful employes should receive some of the benefits of the machine rather than be called upon to reduce their living standard 50 per cent.

UTILITIES CONTROL BLOCKED THREE TIMES

Washington, March 23.—A proposed California constitutional amendment to create a waterpower commission was defeated three times by the public utilities of that State, according to testimony before the Federal Trade Commission.

In three successive elections, 1922, 1924 and 1926, the amendment was placed on the ballot and each time it was defeated. The power industry, evidence showed, conducted well organized campaigns.

The California Electrical Bureau files contain no record of funds spent or details of the campaign. It was stated, however, that reports were made to the late John A. Britten, a vice president of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

NEW MOVE BY "REDS;" OLD PROGRAM FAILS

New York, March 23.—Communists must re-organize their Trade Union Educational League, says one of the "red" strategists, writing in the official organ of the league.

The brethren are informed that this "boring-from-within" weapon has "completely fallen down," and the situation is "intolerable."

A call is made for the reorganization of the league to be known as Trade Union Unity League, which will openly attempt to organize left-wing unions. Under the old system the league cautiously applied a revolutionary "penetrating" policy among trade unionists.

The new initials—T. U. U. L.—could well be replaced by T. O. O. L., as the avowed purpose is to divide workers.

TOOL will be based on the usual centralized system of rulersip from above that is so common among revolutionists, who explain:

"A responsible leadership of the T. U. U. L. must be established. This means that it must combine a democratic representative and democratic character with the most complete centralization."

The usual call for funds is made, as the strategist indicates that the Trade Union Educational League has become shopworn as a money getter, and a new system is necessary.

The workers may expect, therefore, that TOOL will be shortly launched with the usual flourish of trumpets and uproar.

MONEY TO DUAL UNION AIDS LABOR DISCORD

Washington, March 23.—"We can not afford to encourage division and discord in our ranks by aiding dual unions," said President Green in calling the executive attention to recent action by the A. F. of L. Executive Council against the National Textile Workers' Union of America.

"This organization has no relationship to the A. F. of L. and should not be encouraged by organized labor," said Mr. Green. "It is an organization formed by individuals outside the labor movement. It is a body that has for its purpose the division of workers in the textile industry. The United Textile Workers of America is the only organization recognized by the A. F. of L. as having jurisdiction in the textile industry."

PACT DOESN'T APPLY TO NON-UNION LABOR

Winnipeg, Manitoba, March 23.—Non-union men are not entitled to benefits won by the efforts of organized labor, rules Justice Dysart in dismissing a plea for seniority rights agreed to by organized shop men affiliated to the A. F. of L. and the Canadian National Railways.

The plaintiffs were 11 workers who were members of a dual organization. When they were laid off they pleaded with the shop men's committee that their seniority rights be recognized. The unionists refused to consider their claim, as they are no part of the agreement with the railroad.

The dualists carried their case to the court, but Justice Dysart upheld the regular union.

The decision will shock one-big-unionites who spend their time attempting to destroy the legitimate unions and are the first to take advantage of the benefits of these organizations.

OIL WORKERS UNITING

Fort Worth, Texas, March 23.—Oil workers throughout the Southwest are joining the trade union movement, reports affiliated to the Oil Field, Gas Well and Refinery Workers of America. Employers are trying to check overproduction in this industry that threatens profits. Workers suggest that the shorter work day will prove effective.

SPEED UP CUTS WAGES

Greenville, S. C., March 23.—More than 2,000 unorganized employes of the War Shoals Manufacturing Company's mills at War Shoals suspended work. A speed-up system, installed by "efficiency" experts, means more production with a lowering of wages.

FIVE-DAY WEEK WEEK CAN NOT BE ENJOINED

New York, March 23.—Supreme Justice Townley refused to enjoin electrical contractors from accepting a five-day week. Their employers are members of the Building Employers' Association, whose laws provide that all affiliates shall move together in making new wage agreements. When the electrical contractors joined the association they reserved the right to handle their own wage problems and entered into a five-day week contract with employes. Other building contractors are alarmed at the thought of their employes demanding similar treatment and numerous attempts have been made to enjoin the electrical contractors and employes.

The temper of the wire men is not unknown to the courts as these workers frankly announce their intention to ignore any order that will compel them to abandon their five-day week.

CO-OP. THEORY GROWS

Washington, March 23.—Farmers are accepting the co-operative theory, according to the Department of Agriculture.

This system is being applied to a greater extent in purchasing as well as marketing, and promises to become an important factor in American agricultural development, it is stated.

LOW INTELLIGENCE DUE TO POOR FOOD

New York, March 23.—There is a direct relationship between food and intelligence, according to Dr. John Munroe of Long Island University, who has made a 16-years' study of the factors of heredity and environment which governs intelligence and the growth of intelligence.

Dr. Munroe declares that children of well-to-do families have a much better chance of becoming intelligent adults simply because they are better fed.

"Food seems to have been the most important of all contributing influences," said Dr. Munroe, in making known the results of his research.

"I am convinced, as a result of my experiments, that much of the low intelligence among laboring people is due to the fact that for generations they have had poor and insufficient food.

"It may not be amiss to point out that much of the present shortage of intelligence may be eliminated when it is recognized that the vicious food conditions, that mean poor sanitation and hygiene, the brutality of many homes, appear to be the conditioners of moronism and feeble-dullness and that rapidly developing intelligence must be incessantly stimulated on all levels if it is to come to full development. There is hope that the stagnation of intelligence can be alleviated, if not largely eliminated, by environmental manipulation."

AUTOMATIC COUPLERS FOR RAILWAYS URGED

Washington, March 23.—Automatic couplers on all railroad cars within five years is urged by railroad brotherhoods in a petition filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

These couplers would make it unnecessary for employes to go between or under cars for the purpose of connecting trains.

The petition alleges that under the present method of operating trains hundreds of men are killed or injured annually and that many collisions, wrecks and derailments are due to the separation of coupling air, signal and steam hose on trains.

The petition states that this automatic coupler has reached such a perfection stage that installation will eliminate accidents, facilitate making and handling of trains and will pay for itself within a reasonable period through savings in cost of operation and maintenance of trains.

EDUCATION BUREAU TO MEET IN CAPITAL

Washington, March 23.—The sixth national convention of the Workers' Education Bureau will convene in this city April 5, 6 and 7.

The A. F. of L. will be represented by Matthew Woll, fourth vice president, A. F. of L.; John P. Frey, secretary-treasurer, Metal Trades Department, A. F. of L.; George W. Perkins, president, Union Label Trades Department, A. F. of L.; Victor A. Olander, secretary, Illinois Federation of Labor, and Fred Hewitt, editor, Machinists' Journal.

The convention is held here on invitation of the Washington Central Labor Union. That organization has arranged a program of entertainment for the delegates. In a letter to the local trade union movement President Green calls attention to the importance of this convention and the value of direct affiliation. The fee is $3 annually.

PORTO RICAN WORKERS ARE DRIVEN FROM LAND

San Juan, Porto Rico, March 23.—"The lands of our country have passed into the hands of outside financiers," declared the Porto Rican Federation of Labor, in an appeal to the island governor and legislature that corporations be compelled to pay their share of taxes and that these concerns be brought under public control.

The plea is an indictment against exploitation of workers who have been driven off the land.

Money is loaned at "inconceivably usurious rates," and food, clothing and other necessities which should be produced abundantly and cheaply in Porto Rico are imported and sold at a higher price than in the United States.

"The economic system of the island is founded on absentee landlordism," the unionists state. Laws that are intended to protect labor are not enforced, and thousands of children are receiving no education.

Poor tenants have no protection and wage workers are often compelled to pay one-half of their income to landlords.

Tobacco workers are robbed of their toil by false weighing, and entire families work in their homes.

LABOR-SAVING DEVICES DISPLACING WORKMEN

Washington, March 23.—This nation has an obligation to protect workers displaced by machinery, said Harry E. Hull, Commissioner of Immigration, in explaining America's immigration policy.

The commissioner declared that the United States is one of the most liberal nations in the world in its immigration policy. No other country, he said, is absorbing so many immigrants and there are few countries but that discriminate against certain trades and occupations.

"With labor-saving devices being rapidly installed in industry and displacing many workers annually, whose future and whose earning power must be safeguarded, it is the duty of those of their skill and experience gained in their past years of useful service, the government has a sacred obligation to protect them against unemployment," said Mr. Hull. "One of the surest ways to afford this needed protection about them is by the strict compliance with the immigration law, with immigration and naturalization which must be met by all those who seek American shores."

"Self-preservation is not only the first law of nature, but it is also the principle upon which any nation or any group of people must base the hope to hold intact and secure from destruction any custom, policy or standard which has blazed the path to a higher civilization and a greater service to mankind."

SENATOR CHARGES MILITARISM HERE

Miami Beach, Fla., March 23.—This country is spending more money for military purposes than any other nation, said Senator King in an address before the Florida State Bar Association.

"Our appropriation of more than $800,000,000 for ordinary expenses for the army and navy is not consistent with our loud professions for world peace" said the Utah lawmaker.

"We are threatened with trusts and monopolies which will destroy individual initiative and compress industries into the hands of a limited number of powerful financial organizations," he said. "With mass production there will be a crushing of smaller units. Concentration of wealth and capital in industry in the hands of a few will produce evil consequences not only of a material but of a political character."

EMPLOYMENT POLICY URGED FOR RAILWAYS

Washington, March 23.—Railroads should not take on new employes except as to fill actual gaps, and there should be no arbitrary age limit, are suggestions by the Commission of Labor Statistics, Ethelbert Stewart.

The average number of railway employes, the commissioner said, remains steady from year to year. The real problem, he found, is not so much the making provision for displaced workers as it is not taking on new employes unless they are absolutely needed.

PRISON LABOR BILL SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

Des Moines Iowa, March 23.—Governor Hammill has signed the prison labor bill over the united protest of organized labor and other citizens who oppose the fast-growing system.

President J. C. Lewis of the Iowa Federation of Labor said:

"Governor Hammill's position is amazing. No other governor favors the prison contract system with its exploitation of unfortunates, its unfair competition with free labor and its fattening of private pocketbooks at the expense of the public.

"No one knows what remuneration is to be paid convicts for their labor. The State Board of Control doesn't know, and neither does the governor. The contracts are vague upon that point. As nearly as I can ascertain the pay doled out by the exploiters will be approximately 5 cents an hour."

JAMES MORRISON DIES

Chicago, March 22.—James Morrison, long-time member of Typographical Union and one of the early presidents of Madison (Wis.) Typographical Union, died in this city. He was 63. He was a brother of Frank Morrison, secretary A. F. of L.

WORKERS WIN POINT IN "YELLOW DOG" FIGHT

Sacramento, Cal., March 23.—A bill to outlaw the "yellow dog" was favored by the State Assembly Committee on Judiciary.

Paul Scharrenberg, secretary State Federation of Labor, was the labor's leading speaker in favor of the bill. Antiunion manufacturers' associations in Los Angeles and San Francisco oppose the bill.

AIRPLANES WON'T STOP

Washington, March 23.—The next development in aircraft will be the receiving and discharging of mail from airplanes without disturbing the speed of the planes, according to Congressman Kelley. He said that tests are being made for that purpose. The device is based on the principle of a reel or wire, dropped from the plane.

BRITISH TORIES ARE PANICKY AS GENERAL ELECTION LOOMS

London, England, March 23.—The Conservative party, headed by Premier Stanley Baldwin, now in control of the government, are alarmed at the growing strength of the Labor party.

The election for 600 seats in the House of Commons will be held May 30. Mr. Baldwin's failure to meet the unemployment problem during the past four years has been a leading causes for wavering Tory strength.

"Bad economic conditions is acknowledged by Mr. Baldwin's official family.

Sir Arthur Lowry and Dr. Peace of the Ministry of Health declare that conditions in the South Wales mining section is "without parallel in the modern history of this country." These poverty-stricken people are listless, languid and depressed because of lack of food and clothing. Even when put to work, the government officials state, they are too weak to keen at the job.

The last general election was held five years ago, when Ramsey McDonald and the Labor party were ousted from office after a nine-months' tenure. They were overwhelmed by a popular vote of 8,112,000 to 5,470,000. In the closing days of this campaign the Tories produced the famous "red" letter, in which Russian Communists were alleged to have given McDonald in the event of Labor's success. The workers failed to check popular resentment. Later the Conservatives refused to include the letter in the government's official "Blue Book," thereby acknowledging it was a forgery.

At that election former Premier Lloyd George and his Liberal Party polled 2,909,000 votes. In the coming election the Conservatives are hopeful Lloyd George will poll sufficient votes to divide labor. The Liberals have abandoned former declarations in favor of unchecked competition and have a platform the workers charge was taken from their declarations.

Caste System Developed in U. S. Under Every Form of Cheap Labor

By PROF. T. N. CARVER

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No informed person now doubts that the wholesale importation of cheap labor depresses wages and increases unemployment. It drives a wedge through society, elevating one portion to greater riches, forcing another into deeper poverty. Society tends to become stratified into three castes, the rich natives, the poor natives and the immigrants.

Slavery enriched those who could use it, but it impoverished those who had to compete with it. Grant all that can reasonably be said—which isn't much—about the superiority of the stock from which the rich whites were descended and the inferiority of that from which the poor whites were descended, still the fact remains that the rich profited and the poor suffered from the presence of slave labor. The difference in the economic status of the two classes was wider than it would have been if there had been no cheap slave labor.

The same thing was beginning to happen on the Pacific Coast in the days of wholesale Chinese and Japanese immigration.

Like Chinese and Jap immigration, Mexican immigration widens the gap between social groups, not because it is colored but because it is cheap labor. In the whole Southwest, or as far as wholesale Mexican immigration extends, it will divide the natives into the rich whites and the poor whites, with the Mexicans as a separate group.